

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (canceled)**

1           **Claim 2 (previously presented):** A camera according to  
2    claim 8,  
3           wherein one of the first optical filter and the second  
4    optical filter is a color filter and the other is a black-  
5    and-white filter, and  
6           wherein the color filter is switched to obtain a color  
7    image during the day with a high image signal level, and  
8    the black-and-white filter is switched to obtain a black-  
9    and-white image at night with a low image signal level.

1           **Claim 3 (previously presented):** A camera according to  
2    claim 8 or 2, further comprising  
3           detecting means which detects a level of the image  
4    signal output from the image pick-up element,  
5           wherein the first optical filter and the second  
6    optical filter are automatically switched depending on the  
7    signal level thus detected.

1           **Claim 4 (currently amended):** A method of switching  
2   optical filters of a camera, said method comprising the  
3   steps of:  
4           forming an image on an image pick-up element through  
5   a lens provided on a camera body;  
6           converting the image into an electrical signal through  
7   the image pick-up element, thereby obtaining an image  
8   signal;  
9           detecting a level of the image signal output from the  
10   image pick-up element ~~by detecting means~~; and  
11           ~~automatically switching between~~ selectively  
12   positioning one of a first optical filter and a second  
13   optical filter ~~through optical filter switching means~~  
14   ~~provided on a~~ in front surface of the image pick-up element  
15   depending on the detected signal level ~~detected by the~~  
16   ~~detecting means~~.

1           **Claim 5 (previously presented):** A method of switching  
2   optical filters of a camera according to claim 4,  
3           wherein one of the first optical filter and the second  
4   optical filter is a color filter and the other is a black-  
5   and-white filter, and  
6           wherein the color filter is switched to obtain a color  
7   image during the day with a high image signal level, and  
8   the black-and-white filter is switched to obtain a black-  
9   and-white image at night with a low image signal level.

1           **Claim 6 (previously presented):** A method of switching  
2    an optical filter of a camera according to claim 5, further  
3    comprising steps of:

4           when the first optical filter is switched into the  
5    second optical filter or the second optical filter is  
6    switched into the first optical filter, outputting  
7    character information indicating the switching, from  
8    display means to a monitor; and

9           displaying the character information together with an  
10   image shot by the camera, on a screen of the monitor.

1           **Claim 7 (previously presented):** A method of switching  
2    optical filters of a camera, according to claim 6,

3           wherein character information indicating that a black-  
4    and-white image is displayed on the screen of the monitor,  
5    when said image shot by the camera is automatically  
6    switched from a color image to a black-and-white image  
7    after detecting an image pick-up environment.

1           **Claim 8 (previously presented):** A camera comprising:  
2           a lens provided on a camera body;  
3           an image pick-up element for converting an image is  
4    provided by the lens into an electrical image signal;  
5           a first optical filter;  
6           a second optical filter; and

7           optical filter switching mechanism for selectively  
8   positioning one of the first optical filter and the second  
9   optical filter in front of the image pick-up element based  
10   on a level of the image signal.